

Message Text

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15
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P 010040Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: DECON UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, LE, US

SUBJECT: TRANSMISSION OF CALTEX MESSAGE TO MINISTER TUEINI

1. CALTEX HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF DEPARTMENT AND
EMBASSY BEIRUT IN TRANSMITTING MESSAGE TO MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM GHASSAN TUEINI RE OPERATIONS OF
ZAHHRANI REFINERY. CALTEX EXECUTIVES FEEL STRONGLY THAT
THEY SHOULD GET THIS MESSAGE TO TUEINI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
BUT HAVE NO COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL AT PRESENT.

2. TEXT OF CALTEX LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

AUG 31, 1976

H. E. GHASSAN TUEINI
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON
BEIRUT, LEBANON

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

WE FEEL IT APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO BRING TO YOUR
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ATTENTION THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SIDON REFINERY

HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL ADVICE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF MOBIL OIL LEBANON INC. TO THE EFFECT THAT PURSUANT TO THEIR TERMINATION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES ON AUGUST 31, 1976, WE ARE TO STOP ANY PRODUCT DELIVERIES FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT OR FOR THE ACCOUNT OF OTHER MARKETERS LIFTING ON MOBIL'S ACCOUNT. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE SPECIFICALLY ADVISED THEIR SHIPPING OFFICE AT ZAHRANI, AS WELL AS THE ARMY, AND THE OTHER MARKETERS INVOLVED, THAT NO DELIVERY ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THEIR ACCOUNT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31, 1976. WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO SEEK YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ADVICE AT THIS TIME THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE REFINERY HAVE BEEN ACTING UPON THE INSTRUCTIONS COMPRISING YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDA NUMBERS 1/2 AND 1/3 OF SEPTEMBER 12 AND DECEMBER 29, 1975 WHICH DEAL WITH THE PERCENTAGES OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS OFFTAKERS.

WE WOULD THEREFORE SEEK YOUR GUIDANCE ON THE FOLLOWING:

A) DISPOSITION TO BE MADE OF THE MOBIL ALLOCATION SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED BY YOU IN YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDA MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY.

B) THE APPROACH TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE FUTURE IN ADMINISTERING THE PRODUCT ALLOCATIONS FORMERLY UPLIFTED ON MOBIL TICKETS BY THE OTHER MARKETERS WHO WERE BEING SERVICED BY THE FORMER MOBIL STAFF AT THE REFINERY.

REGARDING B) ABOVE, TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY WE HAVE ADVISED MEDRECO BY TELEX TODAY THAT, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, PENDING YOUR ADVICE, THEY ARE AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER THE ISSUANCE OF PRODUCT TO THE REMAINING MARKETERS PREVIOUSLY SERVICED BY MOBIL TICKETS.

TO PROTECT OUR OWN FINANCIAL POSITION WE WILL ENSURE ALL DELIVERIES MADE AGAINST THIS ALLOCATION WILL BE ON A CASH BASIS OR COVERED AT THE TIME OF UPLIFT BY GUARANTEED BANK PAPER.

WE WILL ASSUME THAT WE WILL BE INDEMNIFIED AGAINST ANY LOSSES ARISING OUT OF CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEREBY DELIVERIES ARE MADE AT TERMS AT VARIANCE WITH THOSE JUST MENTIONED.

IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAYS IN COMMUNICATIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FORWARDING YOUR ADVICE TO US AT THE MEDITERRANEAN REFINERY COMPANY, ARIDA BUILDING, HAMRA STREET, BEIRUT, LEBANON.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS, I. M. STEELE, MANAGER, MEDITERRANEAN
REFINERY COMPANY. END TEXT

3. WE HAVE INFORMED CALTEX THAT WE WOULD TRANSMIT LETTER
TELEGRAPHICALLY AND THAT EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT
TUEINI'S OFFICE TO HAVE LETTER PICKED UP, BUT HAVE EX-
PLAINED THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE HOW SOON THIS LETTER CAN
BE DELIVERED TO TUEINI. WE ARE POUCHING SIGNED ORIGINAL.
YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN TO TUEINI IN MAKING DELIVERY CIRCUM-
STANCES WHICH LED TO TRANSMISSION THROUGH USG CHANNELS IN
AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: BEIRUT
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